

Appendix A - Definition of Terms

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Definitions of Terms Used in the Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-grouse in Idaho

Allelopathy: Any direct or indirect harmful effect by one plant (including microorganisms) on another through production of chemical compounds that escape into the environment.

Annual Grassland: Areas dominated or strongly influenced by invasive annuals such as cheatgrass, medusahead wildrye or similar species. Areas with sagebrush may be present, but, in general, understories are not suitable for sage-grouse. Annual grasslands may be reclassified as perennial grasslands once a restoration seeding with perennials is considered “successful”.

Anthropogenic: Relating to or resulting from the impacts of human beings on nature.

Back Fire: A fire set along the inner edge of a fireline to consume the fuel in the path of a wildfire or change the direction of force of the fire’s convection column. See Burn Out.

Backfiring: Backfiring is a tactic associated with indirect attack, intentionally setting fire to fuels inside the control line to slow, knock down, or contain a rapidly spreading fire. Backfiring provides a wide defense perimeter and may be further employed to change the force of the convection column. Backfiring makes possible a strategy of locating control lines at places where the fire can be fought on the firefighter’s terms. Except for rare circumstances meeting specified criteria, backfiring is executed on a command decision made through line channels of authority.

Breeding Habitat: Leks, nesting, and early brood-rearing occur in breeding habitats (Connelly et al. 2000b).

Broad-scale: Approximately 1:500,000 scale or greater, e.g., state of Idaho.

Burn Out: Setting fire inside a control line to consume fuel between the edge of the fire and the control line. See Back Fire.

Condition: The state of historical, current, or potential elements. May be a quantitative or qualitative descriptor.

Conifer Encroachment: Areas where junipers (*Juniperus* spp.) and/or other conifer species are encroaching into sage-grouse habitat.

Early brood rearing habitat: Generally upland sagebrush habitats relatively close to sage-grouse nest sites. These areas are important to broods during the first few weeks after hatching. Forb and insect abundance and diversity are important factors. (See Connelly et al. 2000b)

Extended attack: Suppression activity for a wildfire that has not been contained or controlled by initial attack or contingency forces and for which more firefighting resources are arriving, en route, or being ordered by the initial attack incident commander.

Fine-scale: 1:24,000 USGS quad, e.g., watershed or specific habitat restoration project scale.

Fragmentation: The breaking up of contiguous environmental (habitat) patches into smaller and more disjunct or isolated patches (Morrison et al. 1998).

Greenstrip: A type of fuels management treatment utilizing strips of fire-resistant vegetation established at strategic locations.

Guidelines: Information intended to advise people on how something should be done or what something should be.

Habitat Indicator: Component or attribute of habitat that can be observed and/or measured that provides evidence of habitat suitability.

Invasive Species: A species that is non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health (Executive Order 13112, signed by President Clinton, 1999).

Isolated Habitat: Areas where breeding and winter habitat remains to support relatively small sage-grouse nesting and winter populations; may be isolated from stronghold sage-grouse populations by farmlands, forests, and/or grasslands.

Juniper Encroachment Areas: Sagebrush or perennial grassland areas with juniper encroachment occurring.

Juxtaposition: The adjacency of different patch or landscape types (Gutzwiller 2002).

Key Habitat: Areas of generally intact sagebrush that provide sage-grouse habitat during some portion of the year including winter, spring, summer, late brood-rearing, fall, transition sites from winter to spring, spring to summer, summer/fall to winter. Key habitat may or may not provide adequate nesting, early brood-rearing, and winter

cover due to elevation, snow depth, lack of early season forbs, limited herbaceous cover, or small sagebrush patch size.

Land-use Plan: Land-use plan means a resource management plan or management framework plan, developed under the provisions of 43 CFR 1600. These plans are developed through public participation in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 and establish management direction for resource uses of public lands (43 CFR 4100).

Late Brood-rearing Habitat: Variety of habitats used by sage-grouse from late June to early November. Habitats used include but are not limited to meadows, farmland, riparian areas, dry lakebeds, and sagebrush areas (Connelly et al. 2000b).

Lek (occupied lek): A traditional display area where two or more male sage-grouse have attended in two or more of the previous five years. The area is normally located in a very open site in or adjacent to sagebrush-dominated habitats (Connelly et al. 2003b).

Local Working Group: An advisory group established as a result of the 1997 Idaho Sage-grouse Management Plan, serving under the auspices of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission and statewide Sage-grouse Advisory Committee. LWGs assist in the development of area-specific management recommendations or programs to maintain, improve, and restore local sage-grouse populations and their habitat. LWGs are typically comprised of representatives from federal and state land-management agencies, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, non-governmental conservation groups, and private landowners or permittees.

Mid-scale: 1:100,000 scale, e.g., Sage-grouse Planning Area.

Migratory Population: One-stage migratory sage-grouse populations move between two distinct seasonal ranges. Two-stage migratory sage-grouse populations move among three distinct seasonal ranges (Connelly et al. 2000b).

Non-migratory Population: Sage-grouse populations that do not make long-distance movements (e.g. greater than 10 km, or 6.2 mi, one-way) Connelly et al. (2000b).

Occupied lek: See lek

OHV (off-highway or off-road vehicle): Any motorized vehicle capable of or designed for travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain excluding: 1) Any non-amphibious registered motorboat; 2) Any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for emergency purposes; 3)

Any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the authorized officer or otherwise officially approved; 4) Vehicles in official use; and 5) Any combat or combat support vehicle when used in times of national defense emergencies (National Management Strategy for Motorized Off-Highway Vehicle Use on Public Lands, USDI).

Perennial Grassland: Sagebrush-limited areas characterized by perennial grass species composition and/or structure that should provide suitable potential nesting habitat in the future once sufficient sagebrush cover is reestablished. Includes native and/or introduced perennial bunchgrasses. These sites have the potential to be restored to good ecological condition for sage-grouse through natural recovery or by seeding/planting sagebrush. These areas need to be protected from future wildfires to facilitate recovery. Sage-grouse may use these sites during summer, late brood-rearing, or fall, depending on forb and sagebrush availability. After restoration or recovery of sagebrush, these sites may become key habitat and may also help to link isolated sage-grouse populations. Perennial grasslands may be reclassified as key habitat once sagebrush canopy cover reaches approximately 10%.

Potential habitat: 1) Capable of being but not yet in existence; latent. 2) The ecological community that would be established if all successional sequences of its ecosystem were completed without additional human-caused disturbance under present environmental conditions; often referred to as “potential natural community” (USDA-USDI 1995).

Proper Functioning Condition (riparian areas): Riparian-wetland areas are functioning properly when adequate vegetation, landform, or large woody debris is present to dissipate stream energy associated with high water flows, thereby reducing erosion and improving water quality; filter sediment, capture bedload, and aid floodplain development; improve floodwater retention and ground-water recharge; develop root masses that stabilize stream banks against cutting action; develop diverse ponding and channel characteristics to provide the habitat and the water depth, duration, and temperature necessary for fish production, waterfowl breeding, and other uses; and support greater biodiversity (Sources: USDI-BLM 1993, USDI-BLM1994, USDI-BLM1999).

Red Flag Conditions: A combination of critical weather and fuel conditions that could lead to an extensive wildfire occurrence or extreme fire behavior.

Resource Advisor: An individual tasked with informing a fire incident management team and agency administrator (line officer) about political, social, economic, and resource issues related to a specific fire incident. He/she also provides input during briefings on resources, priorities, and issues of concern; and monitors implementation of fire suppression rehabilitation efforts and compliance with recommendations. In the context of this Plan, a resource advisor will typically be a wildlife biologist,

ecologist, rangeland management specialist, or similar professional with detailed knowledge of local habitat and ecological conditions, objectives, and priorities.

Sagebrush Areas: Areas with generally at least 5% sagebrush canopy cover.

Satellite Lek: A relatively small lek (usually less than 15 males) that develops near a large lek during years with relatively high grouse populations (Connelly et al. 2003b).

Standard: A level of quality.

Stronghold habitat (previously identified as Source habitat; terminology refined in 2004): Areas where sufficient breeding (nesting and early brood-rearing) and winter habitat remains to support sage-grouse nesting and winter populations with generally stable or increasing trends.

Synecology: The branch of ecology that deals with the structure, development, and distribution of ecological communities.

Umbrella Species: Species with large area requirements which, if given sufficient protected habitat area, will also provide habitat for many other species (Noss 1990).

Watershed: Any area of land that drains to a common point. A watershed is smaller than a river basin or sub-basin but larger than a drainage or site. The term generally describes areas that result from the first subdivision of a sub-basin, often referred to as a “first field watershed” (USDA-USDI 1995).

Winter Habitat: Sagebrush habitats that provide access to food and cover during the winter (Connelly et al. 2000b).